



CHURCHES PARTNERING TOGETHER

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A Vision for Serving Our Local Public Schools

Making a “Kingdom” Difference

What does it mean to make a “Kingdom” difference? One way to define it would be *“allowing God to work through us to bring the characteristics of the Kingdom of God (i.e. love, humility, servant hood, compassion, justice, peace, etc.) to the community”*. Making a Kingdom difference happens only when we treat people, not as “projects” but with value, love, and respect.

So, what does it mean to make a “Kingdom” difference in our public schools? When we help a child learn to read, we’re making a Kingdom difference. When we help raise graduation rates, we’re making a Kingdom difference. When we encourage a child who doesn’t think they have any value, we’re making a Kingdom difference. And certainly, when a student or a teacher begins to experience and comprehend the love of Christ for them, we’re making a Kingdom difference.

We can make a significant Kingdom difference wherever we are (i.e. public schools, neighborhoods, workplace, etc.), and it all starts by serving people and developing relationships. Making a Kingdom difference is not just focusing on spiritual needs, but also focusing on physical and emotional needs.

A Perspective on Faith in Schools

We need to be respectful of our schools by adhering to the “Separation between Church and State” guidelines (<http://www.eric.ed.gov/ERICWebPortal/contentdelivery/servlet/ERICServlet?accno=ED459525>). The best way to share our faith in public schools is to love the kids, teachers, and administrators with the same love that God has shown to us, unconditional and sacrificial. Often times, it is our actions that speak louder than words anyway. Instead of initiating spiritual conversations, let’s seek to compel others to curiosity through their experience of our love and actions! Besides... the best time to talk about our faith is usually after we’ve been asked.

Remember, that God uses our seemingly insignificant, unspiritual acts of service to advance His Kingdom when we’re motivated by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Coordinating a landscape project, helping a child learn to read, or mentoring a student are all wonderful ways to live out the gospel in our local public schools. When a passionate follower of Christ embraces loving and serving the needs of others, it becomes a powerful combination for impacting hearts, families, and communities with the gospel.

NOTE: It is important to mention that there are opportunities to coordinate faith-based activities before and after school, so if that’s of interest to you we want to encourage you to pursue it, but just to work within the guidelines provided by the U.S. Department of Education.

More Info

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